

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 01552 191511Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 A-01

OPR-01 SY-04 CU-02 SCCT-01 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 IO-10

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R 191059Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8027

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: STUDENT AGITATION UNDER CONTROL

REF: LAGOS 1460; LAGOS 1481

SUMMARY: FMG APPEARS TO HAVE CURRENT STUDENT AGITATION
UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

1. CURRENT STUDENT AGITATION HIT ITS PEAK WITH UNIVERSITY
OF IBADAN DEMONSTRATION FEBRUARY 13 REPORTED REFTEL, WHICH
WAS FOLLOWED NEXT DAY BY CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITY. SINCE THAT
TIME, IBADAN, IFE, AND LAGOS HAVE REMAINED SHUT, AS HAVE
KADUNA AND PORT HARCOURT TECHNICAL SCHOOLS (WHICH HAD BEEN
CLOSED IN WAKE STUDENT AGITATION DISTINCT FROM THAT AT
UNIVERSITIES), BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO FRESH OUTBREAKS
ELSEWHERE.

2. MOVES TO DEFUSE FMG-STUDENT CONFRONTATION HAVE THUS FAR
COME ENTIRELY FROM STUDENTS AND FACULTY. BOTH NATIONAL UNION
OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NUNS) AND ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 01552 191511Z

TEACHERS HAVE URGED FMG SOFTEN ITS ATTITUDE AND PERMIT

UNIVERSITIES TO REOPEN, BUT THERE IS AS YET NO SIGN FMG PREPARED TO RESPOND. SEVERAL STUDENTS INVOLVED IN DEMONSTRATIONS AT BOTH UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN AND KADUNA POLYTECHNIC REMAIN IN DETENTION, AND THREE MEMBERS OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL HAVE DENOUNCED STUDENT UNREST IN PAST FEW DAYS. BOTH NORTH-CENTRAL STATE GOVERNOR KYARI AND RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR DIETE-SPIFF REAFFIRMED THESIS DISCUSSED LAGOS 1481 THAT OUTSIDE AGITATORS INVOLVED IN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, THOUGH THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED BY STUDENT GROUPS AT IFE AND IBADAN.

3. COMMENT: FMG APPEARS TO HAVE WON ANOTHER ROUND IN ITS CHRONIC CONFLICT WITH STUDENTS, WHO HAVE ONCE AGAIN FAILED EVEN DEVELOP UNITED FRONT AMONG THEMSELVES -- MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE ALLIANCE WITH ANY OTHER ELEMENTS OF POTENTIAL OPPOSITION TO MILITARY REGIME. ON BASIS PAST EXPERIENCE WITH STUDENT AGITATION, FMG CAN BE EXPECTED MOVE TOWARD REOPENING OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CURRENTLY SHUT DOWN WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS, WITH STUDENTS ONCE AGAIN BEING REQUIRED SIGN PLEDGES OF GOOD BEHAVIOR. NET RESULT SHOULD BE FEW MORE MONTHS OF CALM ON CAPLUSES, BUT THIS IS ONE CONFRONTATION SURE TO ERUPT AGAIN AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE.

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